



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

October Livestock Slaughter
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
Average Prices Received by Farmers: October 2005

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during October totaled 1.2 million pounds, up 50 percent from September and 9 percent above the previous year.

There were 1,200 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, up 400 head from September but the same as the previous year. Average live weight was 883 pounds, up 7 pounds from the previous month and 2 pounds above October 2004. Total live weight, at 1.08 million pounds, was 46 percent above the previous month but unchanged from the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during October totaled 800 head, up 400 head from September and 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 497 pounds, up 36 pounds from September and 18 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 416,000 pounds, was up 103 percent from September and 22 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 1,800 head, up 400 head from the previous month and 100 head above October 2004. Average live weight was 188 pounds, unchanged from September but 14 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 343,000 pounds, up 28 percent from September and 1 percent above a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during October was 100 head, the same as September and the previous year. Live weight averaged 74 pounds, down 3 pounds from the previous month but 4 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004.

October 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.6 million pounds, 2 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,400 head, down 10 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was 41 pounds above last year, at 371 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and Mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 228,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2005 commercial red meat production was 37.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was virtually unchanged from last year; veal was down 6 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	Sept	October		Jan. - Oct.		October		January - October	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
----- Number, thousand head -----									
Cattle	0.8	1.2	1.2	11.3	10.6	2,745.9	2,677.9	27,495.7	27,046.0
Calves	0.4	0.7	0.8	6.3	5.1	62.5	56.4	700.0	617.9
Hogs	1.4	1.7	1.8	17.9	16.2	8,969.7	9,117.1	85,240.7	85,188.5
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.5	241.3	228.5	2,355.2	2,244.5
----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----									
Cattle	737	1,077	1,078	9,815	9,324	3,478,639.0	3,428,477.0	33,952,107.0	33,865,040.0
Calves	205	341	416	3,111	2,494	20,607.0	20,912.0	230,532.0	216,493.0
Hogs	268	338	343	3,686	3,164	2,395,671.0	2,449,543.0	22,670,084.0	22,830,569.0
Sheep & Lambs	7	10	8	142	141	32,465.0	31,420.0	320,071.0	309,218.0
----- Average live weight, pounds -----									
Cattle	876	881	883	869	880	1,267	1,280	1,235	1,252
Calves	461	479	497	494	489	330	371	329	350
Hogs	188	202	188	206	195	267	269	266	268
Sheep & Lambs	77	70	74	95	94	135	138	136	138
----- Million pounds -----									
Red Meat	0.8	1.1	1.2	10.9	9.8	3,921.1	3,925.1	37,716.0	37,820.9

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 34,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005. This is 1,000 more hired workers than October of last year and 10,000 more than July 2005. Of the 34,000 hired workers, those that work 150 days or more per year accounted for 71 percent of the total, and workers that work 149 days or less accounted for the remaining 28 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$7.70 per hour compared to \$8.17 per hour in October 2004. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.91 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level.. Livestock workers earned \$7.95 per hour compared to \$8.23 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning 74 cents per hour less this October, at \$7.04, than last October.

The average number of hours worked, at 42.2 hours per week, was .2 hour more per week than the current U.S. average of 42.0 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operations. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	October 2004	July 2005	October 2005	October 2004	July 2005	October 2005
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
Hired Workers (All)	33	24	34	1,175	1,344	1,129
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	324	408	289
Hired Farm Workers	33	24	34	851	936	840
150 Days or More	25	19	24	606	662	620
149 Days or Less	8	5	10	245	274	220
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	37.3	38.0	42.2	40.5	40.6	42.0
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$8.17	\$7.85	\$7.70	\$9.32	\$9.38	\$9.61
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$7.78	\$7.59	\$7.04	\$8.62	\$8.61	\$8.90
Livestock	\$8.23	\$7.80	\$7.95	\$8.91	\$9.26	\$9.14

1/ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

--- Data not published.

November Farm Prices Received Index Up

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased two points from October. The Crop Index is up one point while the Livestock Index decreased one point. Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, oranges, potatoes, cucumbers and cattle. Lower prices were received for lettuce, dairy, hogs, broilers and tomatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a three year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, cotton and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts and sweet corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down two points from November 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 119, increased three points from last month but decreased three points from November 2004.

Prices Paid Index Down

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 143 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index decreased one point from October but is eight points above November 2004. Lower prices in November for diesel fuel, gasoline, complete feeds and hays & forages offset higher prices for feed concentrates, nitrogen fertilizers, building materials, and feeder pigs.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005 ¹	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005 ¹
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.75	5.81	5.73	5.36	5.67	5.68
Rice, per cwt	7.82	6.64	6.98	7.36	6.94	7.34
Upland Cotton, per pound	.462	.477	.497 ²	.432	.485	.482 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.70	97.70	91.70
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	66.50	63.30	62.90	85.40	91.10	91.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	98.10	100.00	100.00	90.20	96.60	97.40
Cows, per cwt ⁴	48.70	41.80	42.00	48.70	46.60	45.80
Calves, per cwt	117.00	119.00	119.00	123.00	134.00	132.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.390	.430	.420
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.539	.534	.563
Milk, All, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.20	15.50	15.10

¹ Mid-month.

² Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month

³ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies

n/a = Not Available.

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